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December 3, 2021

Dear Representative Murphy,

I submit these comments on the proposed legislative redistricting plan to you on behalf of the Highland District Council (HDC). The HDC represents approximately 25,000 residents who reside in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul and the current legislative district 64B. To the extent that legislative maps are reflective of neighborhoods the present proposal is a significant change from the current and historical district. The proposed 40A is especially disconcerting in this regard because it stretches north of Interstate 94. This proposal divides an area that is generally considered a single neighborhood by its citizens.

We would much rather see a district 40A that stretched further east. It would be beneficial for citizens who wish to raise issues that impact their areas if the legislative district follows similar lines to the St. Paul ward configuration. Cohesiveness between the city and state is particularly important in terms of infrastructure (like roads and parks) where there may be multiple jurisdictions involved in the development, maintenance, or management of such resources.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Kind regards,

Michelle Doyle

President, Highland District Council